

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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COUNTRY Colombia

SUBJECT Current Maneuverings of the CTC

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1. The Directorate of the Confederacion de Trabajadores de Colombia (CTC) on 10 January 1950 sent confidential requests to certain national labor confederations for information on which to base an estimate of the CTC's current strength, according to a report made by Ventura Puentes Vanegas, Communist leader and Secretary General of the CTC, to leaders of the Partido Comunista de Colombia (PCC). Puentes Vanegas said that should the Directorate determine that the CTC is strong enough to sustain a general strike, opposition to the Union de Trabajadores Colombianos (UTC) and the Colombian government would be organized on an aggressive basis. On the other hand, if the Directorate found that the CTC is too weak to support a general strike, it may find it advisable to resort to passive resistance and partial collaboration with the Colombian government in labor matters.

2. Puentes Vanegas said that confidential circulars were sent to the following national labor confederations:

FEDEPETROL

FEDENAL

Federacion Nacional de la Construccion

Federacion Nacional de Textiles

Federacion Nacional de Carreteras

Federacion Nacional de Campesinos e Indigenas

Federacion Nacional de Industria de la Madera

Federacion Nacional de la Industria del Cemento

Federacion Nacional de Trabajadores del Estado

Federacion Nacional de Ferrocarrileros y Transportadores

3. The labor federations were requested to provide the CTC Directorate with the following information:

- A complete and detailed report on the morale of their members with special emphasis on their attitude toward the CTC and the UTC. In the latter regard, if a division had become apparent among their members, the federations were asked to report frankly and truthfully.
- A list of members, indicating after each name political affiliation, regularity of attendance at union meetings, payment of dues, and general remarks on personal conduct.

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c. A true financial report.

4. Puentes Vanegas disclosed that the CTC Directorate had also undertaken a campaign among all of its affiliated unions, and among many non-affiliated unions which do not yet belong to the UTC, to incite workers to deluge the government with petitions for salary increases and other benefits.
5. Puentes Vanegas admitted that the UTC has been having an alarming success in splitting the railroad workers' union and has succeeded in creating a group which favors the UTC.

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